

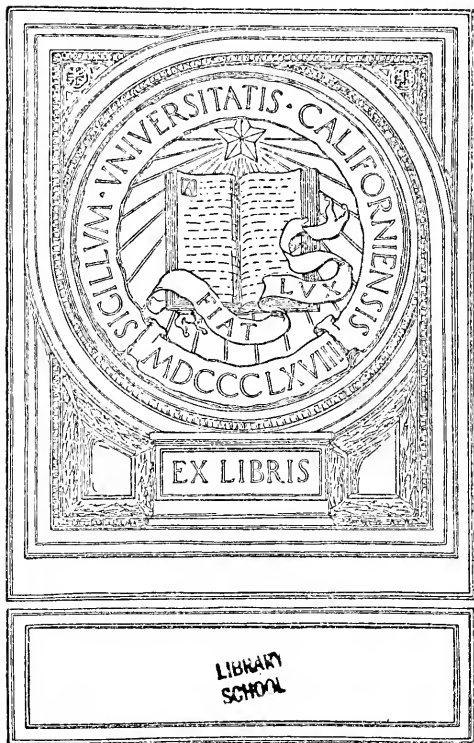
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New York Athenaeum Z733 N635 C6



NEW-YORK ATHENÆUM.

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TO THE PUBLICK.

THE want of a Publick Institution for the cultivation of Literature and Science, and by which a taste for such pursuits might be awakened and preserved in activity among our citizens, has long been deeply felt. New-York is now probably the only city, of equal size and prosperity in the civilized world, in which an association, for the purpose of encouraging and promoting the popular sciences and liberal arts, is not to be found.

In the sister cities of our own republick, such institutions are to be met with liberally endowed and ably supported; and the commercial and manufacturing marts of the European continent have, of late years, vied with each other in the magnificence of such establishments. The example of Liverpool has frequently been held out to our citizens as worthy of imitation, and none can be adduced more apposite. The two cities have risen into importance almost *pari passu*, have been mutually conducive to each other's progress, and are most intimately connected in the bonds of a constant and ever-active commercial intercourse. It might, therefore, be fairly expected that an equal increase of riches, population, and refinement, would have been attended with an equal progress in those branches of knowledge that tend to elevate and adorn the mind, and to open to it a field of enjoyment and delight beyond all that can ever arise from the mere acquisition of wealth; and which, in the vicissitudes of commercial fortune, will ever furnish a solid ground of comfort and content. More, too, might reasonably be demanded from the inhabitants of New-York; superior beyond a doubt in the general dif-

fusion of education, unfettered by any of the trammels of antiquated custom, and ranking first in the confederacy of which their state is a member, they appear to have been called, by their situation and circumstances, to act a prominent and leading part. That they have not done so is to be deeply regretted, but it is not too late to repair the fault, and remove the stigma that yet attaches to the publick spirit of our city. To effect this desirable object, it is only necessary that a small portion of that superfluous wealth, which is at this moment seeking in every possible direction for new channels of profitable investment, shall be diverted to nobler purposes. It is to the merchants of the city of New-York, that their townsmen and the Union look for such support and patronage of science and literature, as shall elevate our civick character; and not only to them, but to all who derive their fortunes and incomes from the wealth that a successful commerce is constantly increasing, and rendering daily more permanent.

It is from a character for a high degree of progress in literature, in science, and in the fine arts, that all lasting national reputation is to be derived. The wealth derived from commerce may vanish; the pride of monied opulence may be checked, but the works of genius, the productions of learning, and the monuments of taste, are indestructible and unfading. Deeply impressed with these truths, a number of persons of literary and scientific pursuits, of whom the undersigned are a committee, have associated for the purpose of endeavouring to raise an institution upon a scale worthy of the city in which they dwell, and call upon the publick for that support which it so munificently bestows upon all the objects of interest that are properly presented to its view. In making this appeal, they feel a confidence of success from the well-known liberality of their fellow-

citizens ; and should even this expectation be disappointed, they trust that they may derive, from a proper pride, a just sense of the dignity of the city, and the evident necessity of placing it, in this respect, as it already is in all others, above its commercial competitors, what even its often tried munificence might not alone accomplish.

With these views, they beg leave to submit the objects and motives of their association to the publick.

(1.) Many of the sciences are at the present time in a state of progressive improvement unexampled in the annals of history ; the press teems with literary productions of the most important and interesting nature. To numbers of our citizens versed in scientifick subjects, or possessing a taste for their cultivation, the time and opportunity of keeping up with their rapid advance is denied—while the productions of the European press are beyond the reach of even those who possess both the means and inclination to obtain its most valuable works. It is therefore proposed that the associates of this institution shall appoint, from their own body, persons who shall annually deliver publick discourses, in which they shall detail the progress of those branches of literature and science that are most intimately connected with their individual pursuits. Among the many subjects that may be adduced, as fitted for discourses of this description, may be mentioned : the Progress of Moral Science—of the Literature of France, England, Germany, Italy, and our own country—of Physical and Mechanical Science—of Chemistry—of the Fine Arts—of the Useful Arts, and Applied Sciences—of Natural History—and of the Mathematics. Among objects so various, every portion of the community may discover such as are suited to its own peculiar taste ; and should the several parts be well executed, they will much abridge the labour

of following the ceaseless progress of human intellect, and render that task easy to those, whom more active and profitable avocations withdraw from the pursuits of learning.

(2.) Many parts of literature, science, and the arts, may be cultivated for the sake of the pleasure they produce, and the agreeable relaxation they afford from the cares of domestic life, the dissipation of the fashionable world, and the turmoil of business. It is, therefore, a prominent object with the associates to provide popular lectures upon such subjects, open to the patrons and subscribers to the institution, and to strangers; and from among their number they propose to select lecturers, who shall, for six months in the year, by a rotation among themselves, produce daily one lecture upon some topic of general interest. In the first outline of such an institution, it would be difficult to define precisely the departments to which these lectures should be devoted, and much will depend in this respect upon the future state of learning, and on the qualifications and pursuits of the associates. It may, however, be reasonably anticipated, that Political Economy, Modern and Ancient Literature and Poetry, the Fine Arts, Natural History in its three branches, Physics, Chemistry Elementary and Applied, Phrenology, &c. would excite interest and attract publick attention. It is proposed that these lectures shall be open to both sexes; and it forms no unimportant feature of the plan, that the ladies of New-York will thus be enabled to pursue studies, and investigate subjects, from which, by the present system of education, they are excluded.

(3.) There exists no institution in the city, provided with sufficient funds to procure and furnish to its supporters the whole of the works, whether periodical or standard, that hourly issue from the presses of America and

Europe. Such an institution is a desideratum, and it is the intention of the associates to keep this in view, as the most prominent object for the investment of the funds that may be derived from their own subscription, or from the liberality of the patrons of the institution, after the current expenses of the courses shall have been defrayed.

(4.) In the pursuit of the objects of the several lectures, and for the use of the persons who may attend the courses, a library of scientific reference will be of the first necessity. It should comprise, when complete, all the standard elementary works of literature and science of every age and nation. Extensive as this part of their plan may be, they do not despair of accomplishing it, should they be able to arouse the feelings of the inhabitants of New-York to a sense of the importance of their plan to its honour and prosperity.

(4.) Several of the associates stand prepared to bring into aid of the purposes of the institution, collections of specimens, and apparatus illustrative of the courses they may be appointed to deliver. In this way every present and urgent want may probably be supplied; but the progress of science will annually call for additions and improvements, while the cost of preparations and repairs must in an active course amount in some departments to considerable sums: these expenses it is proposed to defray from the common stock, and in this way permanent collections, the property of the association, will soon be created.

(5.) The plan being intended to embrace every valuable object of curiosity, would require much time to expose in all its ramifications; nor would it be proper, in its present state, to decide definitively upon its extent. Much must depend upon the support it shall receive,

much upon the exertions and industry of the associates. They would fondly hope that the time may come when the establishment of this institution may be considered to have been of equal advantage to the scientifick character of our country, with that produced in England by the project of Count Rumford,* the first fruits of which were the introduction of Davy and Young to the scientifick world, and the elevation of that country from a very secondary, to the first place in European science.

In presenting this plan to the publick, the associates deem it their duty distinctly to state, that it is based upon no views of private or individual emolument. Their object is to obtain the means by which an Institution, commensurate with the magnitude and wealth of our city, may be established. To attain this desirable end, the lecturers are willing to devote themselves, and to seek no other reward for their exertions, than the reputation they may have an opportunity of acquiring, and the pleasure they must derive from being instrumental in establishing a useful institution. Some of them are already engaged in pursuits of a similar nature, and others may hope that their professional standing and usefulness may be thus advanced, but no part of the funds that may be raised is to be applied to their remuneration.

JAMES RENWICK,	} <i>Committee.</i>
WILLIAM GRACIE,	
J. SMYTH ROGERS,	
F. G. KING,	

NEW-YORK, June 1, 1824.

* The British Institution.

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*
CONSTITUTION
OF THE
NEW-YORK ATHENÆUM.

ARTICLE I.

This Association shall be denominated the "New-York Athenæum."

ARTICLE II.

The object of the Association shall be the cultivation of Science, Literature, and the Arts.

ARTICLE III.

The Association shall consist of resident and honorary members. The resident members shall be citizens of New-York, and may be either Associates, Patrons, Governours, or Subscribers.

ARTICLE IV.

The officers shall be a President, four Vice-Presidents, a Corresponding Secretary, a Recording Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Curator ; who shall constitute a Standing Committee. The President, Vice-Presidents, and Treasurer, shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. The offices of Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, and Curator, shall be perpetual.

ARTICLE V.

The funds shall be derived from the contributions of the Patrons, Governours, Subscribers, and Associates.

The payment of two hundred dollars shall constitute a Patron. The payment of one hundred dollars shall constitute a Governour. There shall be two classes of Subscribers, paying annually, the one the sum of twenty dollars, and the other the sum of ten dollars; and each class having privileges defined in By-laws. Each Associate shall pay an Initiation-fee of five dollars, and five dollars annually.

ARTICLE VI.

The Annual Meeting shall be held on the second Wednesday in May; but the Standing Committee may call Special Meetings on giving four days' publick notice.

ARTICLE VII.

The number of Associates shall be defined by the By-laws, and vacancies in the number of Associates shall be supplied by election at the Annual Meeting. The power of admitting other members shall be vested in the Standing Committee.

ARTICLE VIII.

In elections, and at meetings of the Association, Patrons shall be entitled to four votes, Governours to two votes, and other members to one vote.

ARTICLE IX.

The Constitution may be amended, at the Annual Meetings of the Association, by two-thirds of the votes to which the members present are entitled.

BY-LAWS.

I.—President, Vice-Presidents, and Chairman.

SECTION 1. The President shall preside at the meetings of the members generally, of the Standing Committee, of the Associates, and of the Patrons; and he shall have the nomination of all Committees. In his absence, one of the Vice-Presidents, and, in their absence, a Chairman, shall perform his duties.

II.—Secretaries.

SEC. 1. The Corresponding Secretary shall conduct the correspondence, and he shall give notice and keep minutes of the meetings of the Standing Committee, and of the Board of Patrons.

SEC. 2. The Recording Secretary shall give notice, and keep minutes of the meetings of the members generally, and of the Associates.

III.—Treasurer.

SEC. 1. The Treasurer shall keep an account of all money received or paid by him: he shall invest in a permanent fund the contributions of the Patrons and Governors, as directed by them, and receive the interest of the same: he shall pay no money, but by an order of the Standing Committee, signed by the President; and he shall report at the Annual Meeting.

IV.—Curator.

SEC. 1. The Curator shall have the general superintendence of the property: he shall visit and examine the

rooms weekly, and enforce the regulations ; and, at the Annual Meeting, he shall report.

V.—*Standing Committee.*

SEC. 1. The Standing Committee shall have six regular meetings, every year, viz. on the first Tuesday in February, April, June, August, October, and December ; and a majority of their number shall be a quorum.

SEC. 2. They shall have power to call Special Meetings of the members generally, of the Associates, and of the Patrons ; and to fill vacancies in their own number.

SEC. 3. They shall provide apartments for the Library, Reading-rooms, and Lecture-room ; and they may appropriate any portion of the annual receipts to the purchase of books and apparatus, and report at the Annual Meeting.

VI.—*Associates.*

SEC. 1. The number of Associates shall not exceed 100 ; and this number may be completed by a majority of two-thirds of the votes, to which the members present shall be entitled at any Regular or Special Meeting.

SEC. 2. A person, other than an Associate, who may have engaged in the delivery of the Lectures, shall be considered as nominated for the first vacancy in the number of the Associates.

SEC. 3. The Associates shall meet on the second Thursday in January, April, July, and October ; and one fourth of their number shall be a quorum.

SEC. 4. They shall have power to appoint Lecturers, and the subjects to be lectured on ; and to recommend books and apparatus to be procured.

SEC. 5. The Associates shall provide for the delivery of two Annual Discourses, on some department of Literature, Science, or the Arts. These discourses shall be

publick, and at such time, between the first day of October and the first day of June, as the persons to deliver them may appoint.

SEC. 6. Each Associate shall be entitled to a ticket of admittance to the Lectures, Library, and Reading-rooms, for himself only; and he shall, by the additional payment of ten dollars per annum, be entitled to receive tickets of admittance for his family.

SEC. 7. The Lecturers shall not pay any annual contribution.

VII.—*Patrons and Governours.*

SEC. 1. The number of Patrons shall not exceed 100; and the number of Governours shall not exceed 100.

SEC. 2. They shall each have a copy of the following certificate, signed by the President, and attested by the Secretaries:

This is to certify, that A. B. is entitled to all the privileges of a ——— of the New-York Athenæum, having contributed to the same the sum of ——— dollars.

SEC. 3. The certificate of a Patron shall be transferable and hereditary, by the eldest son, if not specially devised; but transfers of rights must be made upon the books of the Institution. The certificate of a Governour shall be transferable; but shall entitle the holder of it to the privileges of the Association, only during the life of the Governour.

SEC. 4. The Patrons and Governours shall each have three transferable tickets of admittance to the Lectures, Library, and Reading-rooms, and other tickets for the members of their families.

SEC. 5. The Patrons shall constitute a Board, and shall meet, from time to time, to consult in regard to the permanent fund; no part of which shall be appropriated without their consent.

SEC. 6. The Patrons shall constitute a Committee of Visitation, and report at the Annual Meeting.

VIII.—*Subscribers.*

SEC. 1. The payment of \$20 per annum shall entitle a Subscriber to a ticket of admittance to the Lectures, Library, and Reading-rooms; and he shall, on application, receive tickets for the members of his family.

SEC. 2. The payment of \$10 per annum shall entitle a Subscriber to a ticket of admittance to the Lectures, Library, and Reading-rooms, for himself only.

SEC. 3. Both these classes of Subscribers, and the Associates also, shall have the privilege of introducing strangers to the Library and Reading-rooms.

SEC. 4. Every Subscriber shall be bound to the continuance of his subscription, until notice to the contrary shall have been communicated to the Standing Committee, at the regular meeting in May.

SEC. 5. The payment of certain fees, (by persons not regular Subscribers,) to be regulated by the Standing Committee, before the commencement of the annual courses of Lectures, shall procure tickets of admittance to one, or any number of the Lectures, as may be determined by this Committee; and these fees may be appropriated to the Lecturers, in such proportion as the Committee may decide.

IX.—*Library and Reading-rooms.*

SEC. 1. A Librarian shall be appointed by the Standing Committee, and hold his office during their pleasure; and he may receive a compensation to be determined by them. He shall be nominated by the Curator.

SEC. 2. It shall be his duty to be present at the rooms of the Association, between the hours of 1 and 8 P. M.

and to make catalogues, and take proper charge of the books and property.

SEC. 3. No book, pamphlet, map, or chart, shall be removed from the rooms, without permission in writing from the Standing Committee.

SEC. 4. Pamphlets and periodical publications may lie upon the tables in the Reading-rooms for two months, and they shall then be deposited on the shelves.

SEC. 5. Books removed from the shelves, by persons consulting the Library, shall be returned by them to their proper places.

SEC. 6. A member, who may injure any article belonging to the Association, shall make such reparation as the Standing Committee may consider ample, or he shall be suspended from the privileges of the Association. A member shall be responsible for the conduct of the person or persons introduced by him.

X.—Lectures and Lecturers.

SEC. 1. Two Committees, on the subject of Lectures and Lecturers, shall be appointed at each Annual Meeting; the Committee on Lectures, to present to the Associates a plan of the courses to be delivered; and the Committee on Lecturers, to nominate and recommend to the Associates persons to conduct the courses.

SEC. 2. The Lectures shall commence every year, on the first Monday in November, and may continue until the first day of May.

XI.—Honorary Members.

SEC. 1. The number of honorary members shall not exceed twenty; of which five shall be chosen at the first regular meeting of the Associates every year, until the number be complete; and vacancies may be supplied at any of the regular meetings of the Associates.

OFFICERS.

PRESIDENT.

Rev. W. Harris, D. D.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

Rev. J. M. Wainwright, D. D. || *Hon. P. A. Jay,*
Prof. J. Renwick, || *Rev. J. M. Matthews, D. D.*

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

William Gracie, Esq.

RECORDING SECRETARY.

B. McVickar, M. D.

TREASURER.

J. Delafield, Esq.

CURATOR.

J. R. Rhinelanders, M. D.

ASSOCIATES.

J. Kent,
W. Harris,
S. L. Mitchill,
J. M. Wainwright,
W. Post,
P. Milledoler,

|| *P. A. Jay,*
G. C. Verplanck,
H. Wheaton,
H. I. Anderson,
S. W. Moore,
A. McVickar,

J. E. Dekay,
J. Delafield, jun.
H. Breevoort, jun.
R. Greenhow,
R. C. Sands,
M. Eastburn,
J. McVickar,
N. F. Moore,
W. J. MacNeven,
J. Renwick,
S. H. Turner,
J. Cooper,
B. McVickar,
J. F. Schroeder,
M. Bruen,
C. C. Moore,
J. W. Francis,
A. B. Durand,
J. Van Rensselaer,
F. C. Schaeffer,
W. Gracie,
J. M. Matthews,
J. Torrey,
A. Halsey,
C. King,
D. Hosack,
B. T. Onderdonk,
F. G. Halleck,
W. Cooper,
J. Smyth Rogers,
F. G. King,
J. R. Rhinelanders,
W. Moore,
C. R. Duffie,

J. Delafield,
P. Rhinelanders,
J. M. Pendleton,
D. Selden,
W. Dunlap,
J. Morton,
J. Verplanck,
J. I. Morgan,
T. A. Emmett, jun.
E. G. Ludlow,
A. H. Stevens,
J. Milnor,
G. W. Doane,
J. B. Beck,
J. Düer,
R. Adrain,
W. B. Lawrence,
J. K. Paulding,
A. Bleecker,
E. D. Barry,
W. Ware,
J. A. Stephens,
R. King,
G. Gibbs,
J. Pintard,
J. H. Hobart,
J. R. Murray,
M. Hoffman,
J. Griscom,
C. G. Haines,
W. Berrian,
C. Colden,
C. Cambreling.

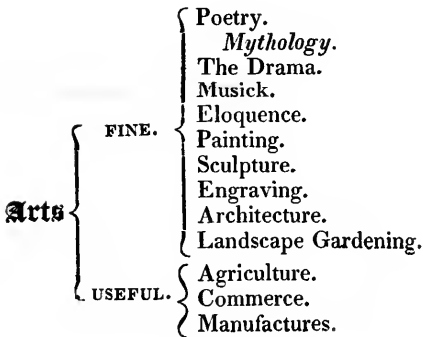
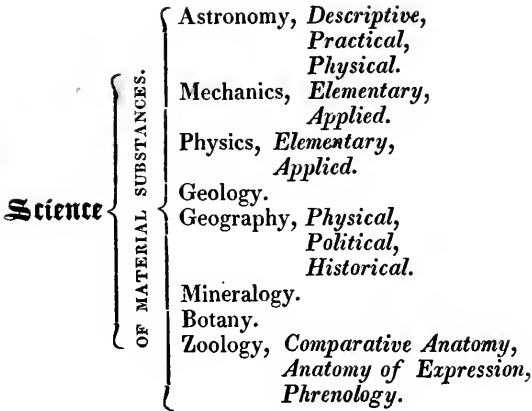
[Twenty-one vacancies.]

GENERAL SCHEME

OF SUBJECTS FOR LECTURES ADOPTED
BY THE ASSOCIATES.

Literature.	{	Oriental. Greek. Roman. Of the Middle Ages. German. French. Italian. Spanish and Portuguese. British. American. Of the Northern Nations of Europe.
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Science	{	OF THE MIND.	{	Evidences of Christianity. Moral Philosophy— <i>Ethics,</i> <i>History of the Philosophy of the Mind,</i> <i>History of the early Schools of Philosophy,</i> <i>History of Dialectics and Rational Logic.</i> Political Economy. Philosophy of Language. Philosophy of History. Law of Nations. Civil Law— <i>And its History.</i> Common Law— <i>And its History.</i>
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SCHEME OF LECTURES

FOR THE YEAR 1825.

SUBJECTS.	LECTURERS.
History of the Civil Law,	<i>H. Wheaton.</i>
Political Economy,	<i>G. C. Verplanck.</i>
History of the Philosophy of the Mind,	<i>J. McVickar.</i>
Greek Literature,	<i>N. F. Moore.</i>
Oriental Literature,	<i>J. F. Schroeder.</i>
Applied Mechanics,	<i>J. Renwick.</i>
Elementary Chemistry,	<i>J. S. Rogers.</i>
Applied Chemistry,	<i>W. J. MacNeven.</i>
Geology,	<i>J. Van Rensselaer.</i>
Zoology,	<i>J. E. Dekay.</i>
Botany,	<i>A. Halsey.</i>
Phrenology, and Anatomy of Expression,	<i>F. G. King.</i>
Poetry,	<i>G. W. Doane.</i>
Eloquence,	<i>J. M. Wainwright.</i>
Painting,	<i>J. Trumbull.</i>
Architecture,	<i>R. Greenhow.</i>

*J. W. Palmer & Co. Printers to
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